IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone, comprising:

a proximity determinator to determine a distance between a handset of said cordless telephone and a base unit of said cordless telephone, and to effectuate a given attenuation of an audio path based on said determined distance.

2. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said cordless telephone has a speakerphone functionality; and

said effected attenuation reducing instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.

3. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said given attenuation is a fixed amount of attenuation based on said determined distance being less than or equal to a given threshold proximity distance between said handset and said base unit.

4. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said given attenuation is a variable amount of attenuation based on a relationship between a desired amount of attenuation and said determined distance.

5. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 4, wherein:

said desired amount of attenuation is determined from a look up table.

6. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein said proximity determinator further comprises:

a receive signal strength indicator module.

7. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein said proximity determinator further comprises:

a round trip delay measurement module.

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8. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein said proximity determinator further comprises:

a global positioning satellite system.

9. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 8, wherein:

said global positioning satellite system is installed in said handset.

10. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said proximity determinator determines said distance only when said handset and said base unit are operating simultaneously.

11. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 10, wherein

at least one of said handset and said base unit is operating in a speakerphone mode when said distance is determined.

12. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said attenuation is a muting of said audio path.

13. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said attenuation is variable in relationship to a distance between said handset and said base unit.

14. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said attenuation is a fixed amount of attenuation.

15. (original) A method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone, comprising:

determining a proximity of a handset of said cordless telephone to a base unit of said cordless telephone; and

when said handset is within a predetermined close distance to said base unit, attenuating at least one audio path between said handset and said base unit.

16. (original) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, further comprising:

placing said cordless telephone in a speakerphone mode;

said attenuation reducing instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.

17. (original) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 16, wherein:

said at least one audio path is a path from a microphone of said handset.

18. (currently amended) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, further comprising:

determining simultaneous operation of said handset and said base unit of said cordless telephone.

19. (original) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, wherein:

said proximity is determined using a receive signal strength indicator of a received signal.

20. (original) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, wherein:

said proximity is determined using a round trip delay timing of a signal between said handset and said base unit.

21. (original) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, wherein:

said proximity is determined using a difference between a GPS determined location of said handset and a GPS determined location of said base unit.

22. (original) Apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone, comprising:

means for determining a proximity of a handset of said cordless telephone to a base unit of said cordless telephone; and

means for attenuating at least one audio path between said handset and said base unit when said handset is within a predetermined close distance to said base unit;

wherein said attenuation prevents instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.

23. (original) The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein:

said at least one audio path is a path from a microphone of said handset.

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24. (currently amended) The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for determining simultaneous operation of said handset and said base unit of said cordless telephone.

25. (original) The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein said means for determining comprises:

a receive signal strength indicator module.

26. (original) The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein said means for determining comprises:

a round trip delay measurement module.

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27. (original) The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein said means for determining comprises:

a global positioning satellite system.